

California CASA Programs

2005 Report



ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE
OF THE COURTS

CENTER FOR FAMILIES, CHILDREN
& THE COURTS

October 2006

California CASA Programs 2005 Report

Introduction

A Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) is a trained volunteer who is appointed by a judge, commissioner, referee, or other bench officer to provide one-on-one advocacy for a child who is under the jurisdiction of the courts owing to abuse, neglect, or abandonment. These volunteers spend time with children, ensure that court-ordered services are provided, attend court hearings for children to which they are assigned, and provide child-focused recommendations to the court based on the best interest of the children they serve.

CASA programs were first implemented in 1977 in Washington State; the following year the first CASA program in California began providing services to children. In 1988, legislation amended California's Welfare and Institutions Code (§ 100 et seq.) to require the Judicial Council to establish guidelines encouraging the development of local CASA programs. As a result, the council adopted rule 1424 of the California Rules of Court (now rule 5.655), which contains mandated requirements that CASA programs must follow. The council works closely with the California CASA Association to ensure that programs are in compliance with both rule 1424 and national CASA standards.

California CASA programs vary by size, number of children served, and services offered. There are 39 local CASA programs providing services in 41 of California's 58 counties, as well as 1 Tribal CASA program.¹ In 2005, California local CASA programs served approximately 7,550 children: about 4,750 CASA volunteers donated 504,900² hours to advocate for 7,300 of those children, and program staff alone served the other 250 children.

Program Highlights

The findings reported here are from the California respondents to the 2005 Local Program Survey administered by the National CASA Association (NCASAA).³

- All of the programs responded to the survey ($n = 38$).⁴
- About **4,750 volunteers** served children in 2005, compared to 4,500 volunteers in 2004.

¹ In 2004, the Karuk Tribal CASA program was established in Northern California, the first tribal CASA program in the state; this report does not include the Karuk program's data.

² The number of volunteer hours should be viewed cautiously as there is no standardized method for collecting such data in California (see *Methodology in Appendix 3*).

³ The data in this report may vary from the data submitted to the National CASA Association; the Judicial Council contacted counties that submitted erroneous data, or no data, and worked with those counties to make necessary revisions.

⁴ One program was in transition: Their data was insufficient and therefore omitted from this report.

- Approximately **7,550 children** were served by California CASA programs in 2005; 7,300 children were served by volunteers, and 250 children were served exclusively by program staff. A median of 149 children were served per program.
- About **7 percent**⁵ of children in the California dependency system were served by CASAs.
- Volunteers statewide reported **504,900 donated hours** in service to California children, at a monetary value of about **\$9,107,900**⁶. An average of 107 hours were donated per volunteer.
- In 2005, statewide actual total program revenue was about **\$17,080,000**; approximately 6 percent more than last year.

Number of Years Programs had been serving Children as of 2005

The median in 2005 was 11.5; program age ranged from 1 to 28 years old.⁷ In California, 21 percent of programs have been serving children for 5 years or less and 68 percent of the programs began serving children more than 10 years ago.

Program Revenue

A total of 60 percent ($n = 23$) of responding programs reported revenue increases from 2004, 11 percent ($n = 4$) reported constant revenue, and 29 percent ($n = 11$) reported decreased revenue.⁸

For purposes of analysis, California CASA programs are divided into three regions.⁹ Median total revenue for each program was as follows: Bay Area/Northern Coastal, \$418,515; Northern/Central, \$133,895; and Southern, \$365,904. Median total revenue for each region changed as compared to 2004; Bay Area/Northern Coastal rose almost 11 percent, Northern/Central increased by 3 percent, and the Southern region dropped 16 percent. The median total revenue statewide was \$268,178, almost 15 percent above the 2004 level (\$234,000). The aggregate *actual* total program revenue statewide was about 6 percent higher than last year.

Cost per Child

The median cost per child remained constant compared to the prior year. Cost per child is calculated by dividing the total budgeted expenses by the total number of children served for each program. Both median program expenditures and number of children served increased in 2005.

⁵ As of July 1, 2005, there were 116,784 children in foster care or family maintenance in California. Needell, B., Webster, D., Armijo, M., Lee, S., Cuccaro-Alamin, S., Shaw, T., Dawson, W., Piccus, W., Magruder, J., Exel, M., Conley, A., Zaman, J., Smith, J., Dunn, A., Frerer, K., Putnam Hornstein, E., & Kaczorowski, M.R. (2004). *Child Welfare Services Reports for California*. (2006). Retrieved October 16, 2006, from University of California at Berkeley Center for Social Services Research Web site. URL: http://cssr.berkeley.edu/CWSCMSreports/Pointintime/services/data/CWf_S0_jul2005_s.html.

⁶ Total number of hours multiplied by \$18.04 (Independent Sector's national 2005 rate for the value of a volunteer hour).

⁷ For purposes of this report, "program age" is defined as the point at which programs began to serve children, rather than when the program was established.

⁸ The information reported in the survey was for calendar year 2005, except for the fiscal data, in which case the programs were asked to report the most recent fiscal year; the most recent fiscal year was 2004–2005 for 97 percent of responding programs, and calendar year 2004 for 3 percent of programs.

⁹ Program regions are aligned with the California Administrative Office of the Courts designated regions (see Appendix 2).

Value of Volunteer Time

Although the number of volunteer hours must be viewed cautiously, the value of volunteer time can still be estimated¹⁰ based on what is known;¹¹ this estimation reflects the minimum monetary value of core service that CASA volunteers perform. In 2005, the monetary value of volunteer time was \$9,107,900 for 504,900 hours donated.

Funding Sources

The most common program revenue sources were “state,” “foundation grants,” “other fundraising events,” “individual donors,” “corporate contributions,” and “county.” Many of the highest median amounts contributed were generated from the most common donors. These particular revenue sources have remained strong contributors to CASA programs statewide for the past several years, as seen in table 1.

Public

Overall, funding from various state and federal resources was also strong during 2005, and the median funding levels increased in several categories. The median funding level received from courts showed a dramatic increase (almost 60 percent), while the median funding level received from counties (17 percent) also rose significantly.

Private

Individual donors, foundation grants, and corporate contributions remained strong funding sources for California CASA programs in 2005 and 2004. The percentage of programs that received funding from corporations and individual donors dropped somewhat from 2004 to 2005; the median funding level provided by corporations also dropped (about 16 percent). The median funding level from individual donors increased by 54 percent and the median amount received from foundations rose by almost 8 percent. In general, private donors were an important funding source in 2005 and have continued to provide much-needed revenue to the CASA programs they support.

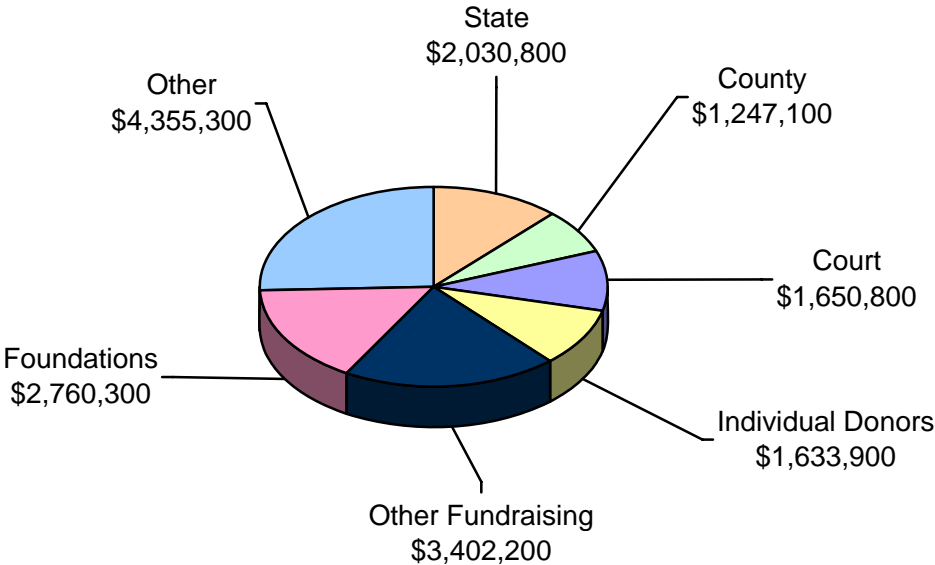
Also noteworthy were contributions made by “community service organizations and clubs” and “in-kind donations”; both these funding sources have provided significant support to CASA programs over the last few years. The number of programs receiving in-kind donations and funding from community service organizations or clubs dipped somewhat, although the median funding level for in-kind donations slightly increased and the median funding level for community service organizations or clubs more than doubled.

¹⁰ See footnote 6.

¹¹ “What is known” means that volunteer hours are often underreported and, at a minimum, volunteers reported “core hours” for 97 percent of programs. From this information, therefore: (1) the total number of volunteer hours represents a minimum number of hours and (2) the total number of hours represents at least core service to children (see page 17 of *Methodology* for definition of “core hours” and for a more in-depth discussion regarding types of volunteer hours in Administrative Office of the Courts, Center for Families, Children & the Courts. (2005)). *California CASA Programs 2004 Report*. San Francisco: Administrative Office of the Courts.
<http://www.courtinfo.ca.gov/programs/cfcc/pdffiles/CASA2004Report.pdf>).

The following chart provides a detail of the major revenue sources in 2005; the total amount contributed by these major sources (\$12,725,100) represents about 75 percent of total program funding (\$17,080,400), and “other” accounts for the rest.

Figure 1. Sources of Revenue in 2005



Fundraising

Over the past few years, roughly 30 percent of programs generated revenue from various product sales; some 24 percent of programs raised revenue from product sales in 2005. Popular products sold included the CASA rose, birdhouses, Easter lilies, seed packets, and holiday cards.

In 2005, 76 percent of responding programs received revenue from unspecified fundraising events, and the median revenue level generated by fundraising activities was more than double the 2004 level (see table 1). Fundraising events included golf classics, other special events, dinners, luncheons, live and silent auctions, and raffles. Many of these fundraisers attracted high numbers of people; local press contributed to event success and CASA name recognition increased.

Table 1. Detail of funding sources, number of receiving programs, and median funding amounts for the last two years

Funding source	# of receiving programs in 2005 (n = 38)	Median funding amount in 2005	Total aggregate funding in 2005	Median funding amount In 2004	Total aggregate funding in 2004
Public					
Court	16	\$54,289	\$1,650,772	\$34,000	\$1,553,155
State	38	\$43,000	\$2,030,827	\$43,000	\$2,294,330
County	17	\$50,000	\$1,247,086	\$42,500	\$1,089,138
City	7	\$12,500	\$99,900	\$5,900	\$52,928
Federal (other)	3	*	\$116,000	*	\$35,540
NCASAA ¹²	11	\$40,000	\$361,055	\$39,535	\$385,706
CDBG (federal)	10	\$9,000	\$322,450	\$44,644	\$454,241
CJA (federal)	1	*	\$16,600	*	n/a
Title IV-E (federal)	1	*	\$35,046	*	\$128,275
TANF (federal)	1	*	\$86,083	*	\$12,770
Private					
Corporate contributions	21	\$13,000	\$658,654	\$16,678	\$676,620
United Way	14	\$9,876	\$502,399	\$8,500	\$213,066
Foundation grants	25	\$70,000	\$2,760,297	\$65,000	2,436,228
Individual donors	24	\$29,180	\$1,633,872	\$18,879	\$1,822,145
Community service organizations/clubs	16	\$7,150	\$176,121	\$3,000	\$90,672
In-kind donations	15	\$40,000	\$964,821 ¹³	\$36,792	\$1,387,929
Kappa Alpha Theta	4	*	\$17,720	\$2,000	\$13,050
Church donations	7	\$4,557	\$35,605	\$700	\$15,509
Fundraising					
CASA Light of Hope Event	4	*	\$220,561	\$3,000	\$215,178
Membership dues	3	*	\$9,040	*	\$125
Other fundraising	29	\$81,797	\$3,402,231	\$40,000	\$2,485,504
Product sales	9	\$1,500	\$57,247	\$2,350	\$44,809
Other sources	16	\$14,500	\$630,320	\$13,250	\$283,472
Median total revenue		\$243,939	\$17,080,394	\$236,000	\$15,805,733

Note: All responding local programs received funding from the Judicial Council during 2005 (and in 2004 as well). In 2005 & 2004, programs identified the funding under the "state" category.

¹² National CASA Association (NCASAA) provides grant money to selected programs nationwide through a Request for Proposal process; the money originates from federal grant money awarded to NCASAA. NCASAA also provides smaller grants from the Jeweler's for Children charity. Most of the funding received by program in this category was federal funding.

¹³ This aggregate amount is low; not all counties reported in-kind revenue (such as office space, volunteer hours, etc.) in 2005, although they all receive some level of in-kind revenue.

Overview of Funding Sources in Relation to Program Revenue

Table 2 provides an overview of the median percent of total program revenue raised by funding source for each region, as well as the number of programs in each region that received support from each funding source. The information illustrates the extent to which programs relied on particular funding sources by region and also provides a comparison between the regions.

The median percent of a program's revenue raised by "other fundraising" was fairly consistent for all three regions. Bay Area/Northern Coastal programs relied slightly more on various federal monies and foundations than did programs in either of the other two regions, while Northern/Central programs relied mostly on state resources and in-kind donations. Southern programs remained somewhat more evenly diversified across the board and relied on "foundations" as their greatest revenue source.

Table 2. Median percent of total program revenue raised by funding source and region in 2005

Funding Source	Bay Area/North. Coast		Northern/Central		Southern		Statewide	
	% of revenue	N = 13	% of revenue	N = 16	% of revenue	N = 9	% of revenue	N = 38
Court	7%	5	9%	6	18%	5	11%	16
State	13%	13	31%	16	6%	9	19%	38
County	11%	7	12%	7	21%	3	12%	17
City	14%	2	1%	2	2%	3	3%	7
Title IV-E	n/a	0	n/a	0	5%	1	5%	1
TANF (federal)	19%	1	n/a	0	n/a	0	19%	1
NCASAA	9%	2	14%	4	6%	5	6%	11
CDBG	12%	4	6%	2	2%	4	6%	10
Other (federal)	26%	1	21%	1	24%	1	24%	3
Corporations	4%	9	5%	7	2%	5	3%	21
Individuals	7%	10	7%	6	6%	8	7%	24
Membership dues	0% ¹⁴	1	n/a	0	0%	2	1%	3
CASA Light of Hope	n/a	0	0%	1	9%	3	7%	4
Other fundraising	21%	10	18%	10	19%	9	19%	29
Product sales	0%	5	0%	1	2%	3	0%	9
United Way	3%	3	3%	4	3%	7	3%	14
Foundations	17%	10	13%	8	24%	7	15%	25
Kappa Alpha Theta	0%	1	3%	1	2%	2	2%	4
Churches	2%	2	0%	2	0%	3	0%	7
Community service	2%	7	2%	5	2%	4	2%	16
In-kind	13%	4	7%	7	5%	4	7%	15
Other sources	1%	6	2%	6	2%	4	1%	16

¹⁴ Whenever "0%" appears in table 2, it indicates that the median percent of total revenue raised was less than 0.5 percent.

CASA Staff

Number of Positions

CASA programs reported a median of 5 staff: typically 3 full-time and 2 part-time positions. Programs also reported a median of 4.5 total full-time equivalents and an FTE range of 0.6 to 27.

During 2005, 33 percent of programs gained staff positions, 52 percent reported no change, and 15 percent reported losing positions.

Demographics

In 2005, 89 percent of all CASA program staff were female; 11 percent were male. Racial/ethnic demographics are shown in table 3.

Table 3. Percentage of all staff, volunteers, and children served in each racial/ethnic group in 2005

Race/Ethnicity	Staff	Volunteers	Children served
African-American	7%	5%	18%
Asian/Pacific Islander	6%	3%	1%
White (non-Hispanic)	66%	70%	36%
Latino	17%	10%	31%
Native American	1%	1%	2%
Multi-racial	1%	2%	7%
Other	1%	3%	1%
Unknown	1%	6%	4%
Statewide actual totals	295	4,739	7,550

In 2005, as reported by the survey, 59 percent of children served by volunteers were children of color, predominantly Latino (31 percent) and African-American (18 percent). As seen in table 3, racial/ethnic disparities between staff, volunteers, and children continue—particularly for African-American and Latino children served. However, the number of Latino/a volunteers did slightly increase over 2004 by 2 percent. The number of African-American and Latino children served was fairly stable compared to the prior year.

Executive Director Position

Hours. The median number of hours worked for all programs, and in all program regions, was 40 per week.

Salary. The median executive director's salary, when adjusted for full-time equivalent status, was \$53,080 annually, which represents about a 2 percent increase from 2004. The salary medians for each region for 2005 are shown in table 4; while the median salary levels decreased in each region compared to 2004, the median salary level for *all* programs increased.

Table 4. Annual median salaries based on one full-time equivalent by program region in 2005

Region	Executive Director
Bay Area/Northern Coastal (n = 13)	\$65,000
Northern/Central (n = 16)	\$48,500
Southern (n = 9)	\$50,000
All programs	\$53,080

Benefits. During 2005, 89 percent of responding programs provided benefits to the executive director and 11 percent did not.

Table 5. The number of programs providing benefits to executive directors by benefit type and program region in 2005

Benefit Type	Executive Director			
	Bay Area/ Northern Coastal (n = 13)	Northern/ Central (n = 16)	Southern (n = 9)	All programs (n = 38)
Health	10	13	7	30
Dental	9	8	2	19
Retirement	5	6	2	13
Other	4	4	3	11
None	0	3	1	4

Volunteer Coordinators

Hours. The median number of hours worked by volunteer coordinators for all programs, and in all program regions, was 40 per week and remained constant compared to the previous year.

Number of volunteer coordinators per program. In 2005, 92 percent of all responding programs had a volunteer coordinator; the median number of volunteer coordinators per program was 2 and the FTE was 1.5.

Salary. The median volunteer coordinator's salary, when adjusted for full-time equivalent status, was \$35,000 annually (Table 6), slightly higher than in 2004. Median salary levels by region remained fairly constant in comparison to 2004.

Table 6. Annual median salaries based on one full-time equivalent by program region in 2005 (n = 35)

Region	Volunteer coordinator
Bay Area/Northern Coastal (n = 13)	\$38,000
Northern/Central (n = 13)*	\$32,000
Southern (n = 9)	\$35,553
All Programs	\$35,000

*Three of the 16 responding Northern/Central counties did not have volunteer coordinators at the time of this survey.

Benefits. During 2005, 89 percent of volunteer coordinator positions statewide included benefits, representing a 9 percent increase over 2004. Table 7 shows details of volunteer benefits by program region.

Table 7. The number of programs providing benefits to volunteer coordinators by benefit type and program region in 2005

Benefit type	Volunteer coordinator			
	Bay Area/ Northern Coastal (n = 13)	Northern/ Central (n = 13)*	Southern (n = 9)	All programs (n = 35)
Health	11	9	8	28
Dental	8	5	2	15
Retirement	5	4	3	12
Other	4	3	3	10
None	0	4	0	4

*Three of the 16 responding Northern/Central counties did not have volunteer coordinators at the time of this survey.

CASA Volunteers

Number of Volunteers and Hours Contributed

Responding programs reported an overall median of 57 volunteers actively serving children; a median of 114 volunteers in Bay Area/Northern Coastal programs, 32 volunteers in Northern/Central programs, and 179 volunteers in Southern programs. Many of the programs in the Northern/Central region are located in small rural counties with low general populations, and therefore lower dependency populations than in the other two regions.

The number of volunteers increased in 2005 by 5 percent over 2004; approximately 7,350 children were served by volunteers, compared to 7,250 in 2004 (a 1 percent increase).

More than 504,900 hours were donated by volunteers to serve children in 2005. Each volunteer contributed an average of 107 hours annually.

In 2005, California programs trained 1,348 new volunteers, who were sworn in by California courts, which is consistent with the prior year (1,335).

Demographics

Where gender was reported, 81 percent of volunteers were women and 19 percent were men. The race/ethnicity breakdowns were similar to those for CASA staff (table 3): 69 percent were White (non-Hispanic), followed by Latino (10 percent), African-American (5 percent), Asian (3 percent), Native American (1 percent), Other (3 percent), and Multi-racial (2 percent). Race/ethnicity was unknown for 6 percent of volunteers (many volunteers declined to state their race/ethnicity).

Volunteer age breakdowns were as follows: 11 percent were under 30; 15 percent were 30 to 39; 19 percent were 40 to 49; 24 percent were 50 to 59; 24 percent were 60 and older. Age data for 7 percent of volunteers was unknown.

Children Served

Number Served

Approximately 7,550 children were served by California CASA programs in 2005; 7,311 children were served by volunteers, and 239 children were served exclusively by program staff. This represents a 6 percent decline in total number of children served over 2004 (8,016); this decline is the result of (1) changes made in service programs to children for several programs, (2) reduced staffing for one program, and (3) reporting errors in 2004. Although the total number of children served declined, the total number of children served by volunteers alone increased slightly by 1 percent, and the number of children served by staff alone decreased by 69 percent (777 in 2004 vs. 239 in 2005); most programs are now in compliance with National CASA's 15 percent rule regarding the maximum allowable number of children served by staff alone.

In 2005, CASA programs served a median of 149 children, about 4 percent lower than last year. One-fourth of programs served 59 or fewer children, while one-fourth served 255 or more children.

During 2005, 2,753 new children were served and 2,131 children's cases were closed, indicating that the number of new children served increased by 4 percent over 2004 and the rate of children's case closure was 22 percent lower than the previous year.

Typically, the ratio between volunteers and children was one-to-one. Some volunteers chose to serve more than one child at a time or to serve a sibling group. However, most California CASA programs followed a one-to-one model.

Case Types Served

In addition to child abuse and neglect cases, 13 programs served children in other types of cases: 12 in delinquency proceedings; 3 in divorce custody cases; 2 in probate; and 1 in mediation cases.

Outcomes at Case Closure

Table 9 describes the most common outcomes for children at court case closure or CASA program case closure in 2005.

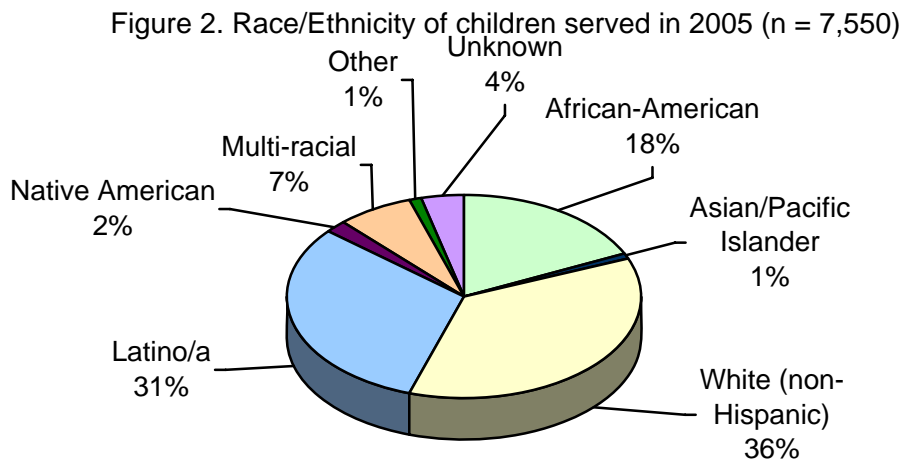
Table 9. Most common outcomes at case closure in 2005 ($n = 2,144$)

Outcome at case closure	% of children whose cases closed
Reunification	30%
Adoption	15%
Child aged out of system/Emancipation	13%
Guardianship	10%
Transferred out of County or State	6%
Family Moved	1%
Other (long-term foster care or long-term relative care)	6%
Other (delinquency)	5%
Other (various)	9%
Missing data	5%

Children's Demographics

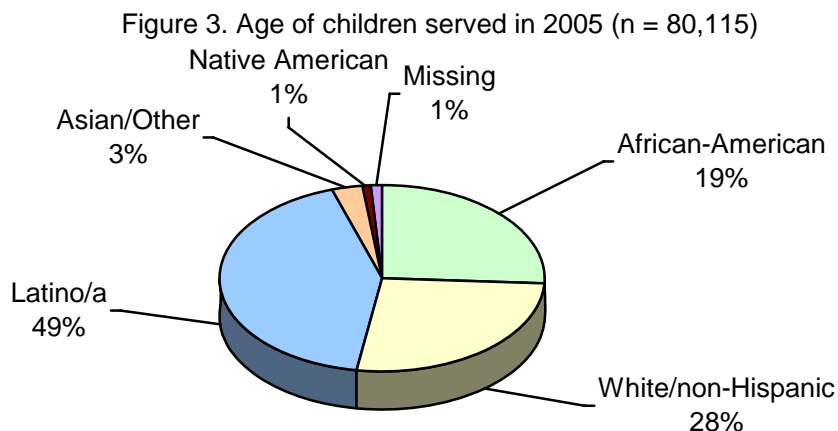
In 2005, 51 percent of children served were male and 49 percent were female.

Child ethnicity for CASA children is shown in figure 2 (demographics comparing children's race/ethnicity to that of volunteers and program staff are given in table 3).



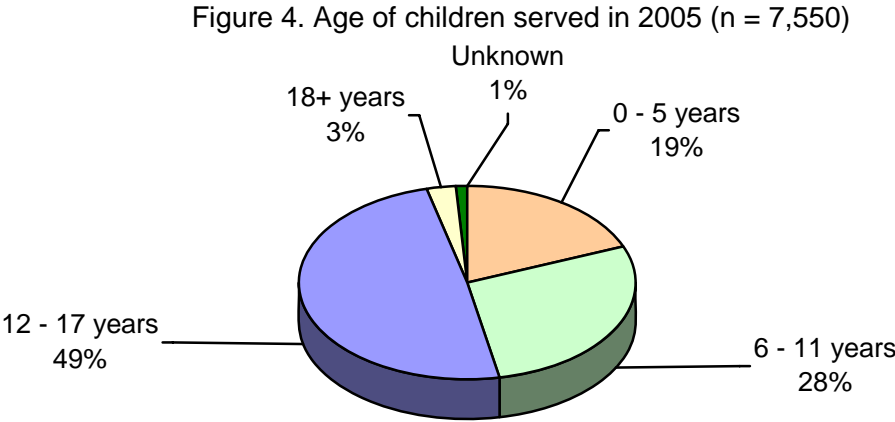
Available point-in-time child welfare data for California as of July 1, 2005, provides a rough comparison to the CASA children served (see figure 3).¹⁵ This data suggests that the race/ethnicity of CASA children served in 2005 was not entirely reflective of the general child welfare population in that Latino children, in particular, were underrepresented and White (non-Hispanic) children were overrepresented.

Figure 3 shows the ethnicity breakdown of children in child welfare as of July 1, 2005.



¹⁵ Needell, B., Webster, D., Armijo, M., Lee, S., Cuccaro-Alamin, S., Shaw, T., Dawson, W., Piccus, W., Magruder, J., Exel, M., Conley, A., Zaman, J., Smith, J., Dunn, A., Frerer, K., Putnam Hornstein, E., & Kaczorowski, M.R. (2005). *Child Welfare Services Reports for California*. Retrieved February 7, 2006, from University of California at Berkeley Center for Social Services Research Web Site. URL: http://cssr.berkeley.edu/CWSCMSreports/Pointintime/fostercare/childwel/frequencies/data/CWf_PE0_jul2005_0.html. This data was point-in-time, as opposed to the data reported in the Annual Survey, which was for calendar year 2005.

Figure 4 shows the age breakdown of CASA children served.

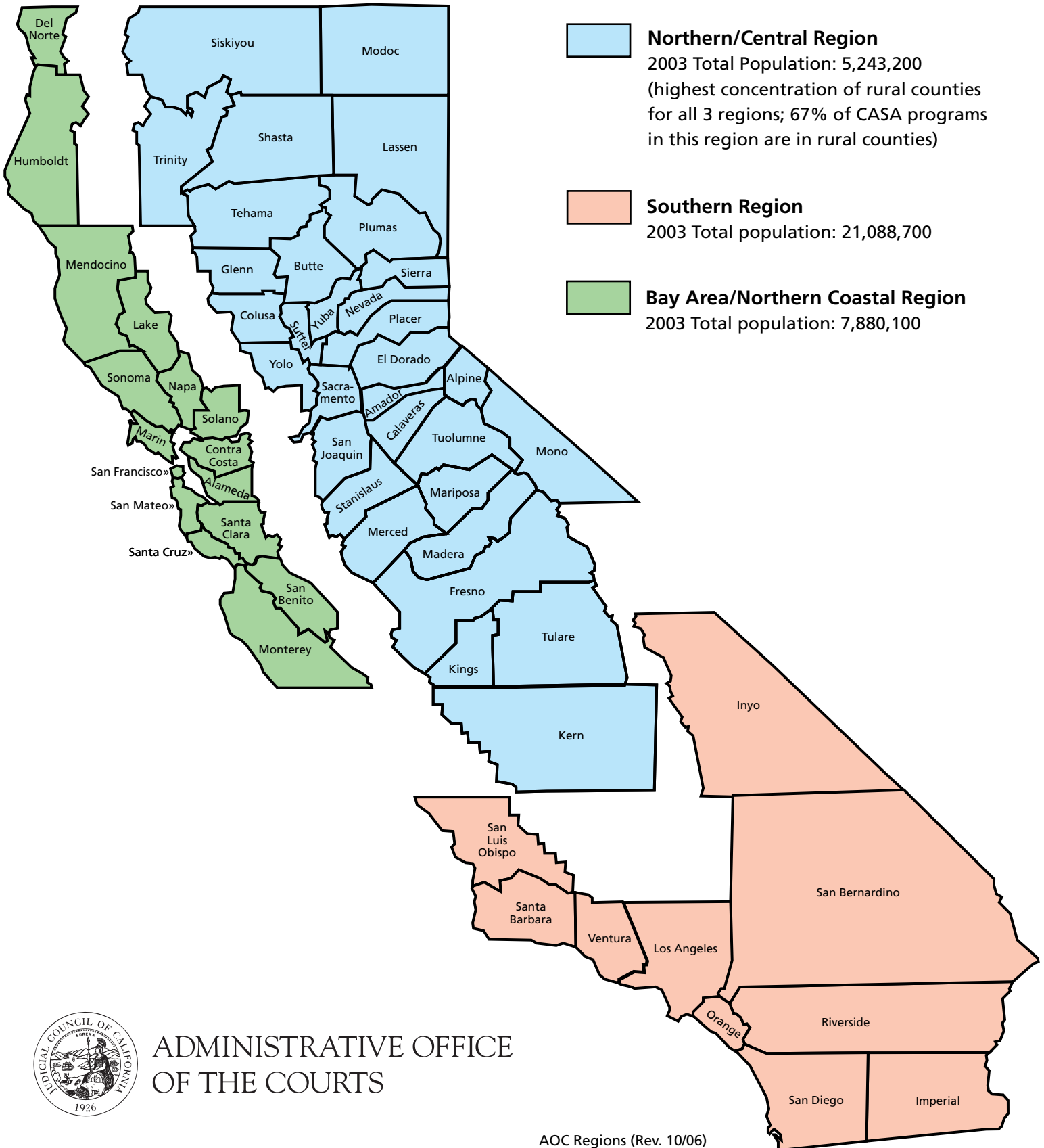


Appendix 1

Program respondents included in data set in 2004 (*n* = 38)

County	Program name
Alameda	Alameda County CASA Program
Amador	Amador-Tuolumne Community Actions Agency/Amador County CASA Program
Butte	CASA of Butte County
Contra Costa	CASA of Contra Costa County
Del Norte	CASA of Del Norte
Fresno/Madera	CASA of Fresno and Madera Counties
Humboldt	CASA of Humboldt
Imperial	CASA of Imperial County
Kern	CASA of Kern County
Lassen	Lassen Family Services/Lassen County CASA Program
Los Angeles	CASA of Los Angeles
Marin	Marin Advocates/Marin CASA Program
Mariposa	CASA of Mariposa County
Mendocino	CASA of Mendocino County
Modoc	T.E.A.C.H./Modoc CASA Program
Monterey	CASA of Monterey County
Napa	Volunteer Center of Napa Valley/CASA of Napa County
Nevada	Child Advocates of Nevada County
Orange	CASA of Orange County, Inc.
Placer	Child Advocates of Placer County
Plumas	Plumas Crisis Intervention and Resource Center/Plumas County CASA
Riverside	CASA for Riverside County, Inc.
Sacramento	Sacramento CASA Program, Inc.
San Bernardino	Child Advocates of San Bernardino County
San Diego	Voices for Children, Inc./San Diego CASA
San Francisco	San Francisco CASA Program
San Joaquin	San Joaquin CASA Program
San Luis Obispo	Voices for Children, Inc./CASA of San Luis Obispo County
Santa Barbara	CASA of Santa Barbara County
Santa Clara/San Mateo	Child Advocates of Santa Clara and San Mateo Counties
Santa Cruz	CASA of Santa Cruz County
Solano	Solano County CASA
Sonoma	CASA of Sonoma County
Stanislaus	CASA of Stanislaus County
Tulare	CASA of Tulare County
Ventura	Interface/CASA of Ventura County
Yolo	Yolo County CASA

AOC Regions



ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE
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Appendix 3

Methodology

This report summarizes data submitted by 38 of California's 39 local CASA programs as part of National CASA Association's 2005 annual survey; the data discussed represents those 38 programs that responded to the survey, unless otherwise noted. All tables and charts note the number of respondents ($n = xx$) for the data represented. The data in this report may vary from the data submitted to National CASA due to follow-up efforts regarding erroneous/no data submitted; in these instances, data errors were largely corrected and the corrected data is reflected in this report. One program was excluded from this report, as it was in a transitional stage during 2005 and had insufficient data to report.

Medians are used in this report to reflect data submitted; the exception relates to hours donated, in which case averages were used.¹⁶

Volunteer Hours

As mentioned in the California CASA Programs 2004 Report,¹⁷ no standardized method has been established in California for recording volunteer hours. The total number of volunteer hours represents, at a minimum, core volunteer hours across most programs. That number for 2005 was 504,869; as previously mentioned, this number must be viewed cautiously.

¹⁶ Medians represent the midpoint in values: Half of the values are higher than the median while half are lower. Using medians in place of averages eliminates the skewing of data by a small number of programs that might be significantly different from the others, especially when the total number of programs is low.

¹⁷ Administrative Office of the Courts, Center for Families, Children & the Courts. (2005). *California CASA Programs 2004 Report*. San Francisco: Administrative Office of the Courts.
<http://www.courtinfo.ca.gov/programs/cfcc/pdffiles/CASA2004Report.pdf>

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